



Roma, Città del Vaticano, BAV: > Codex Ursinianus (Census)
CensusID: 60241

Alias inv. Vat. lat. 3439; Codex: inv. Vat. lat. 3439

Description

Type of documentary Material album
Date 1670:4:29-1670:7:22

References

Bibliography:

- > Mandowsky, Erna & Mitchell, Charles: Pirro Ligorio's Roman Antiquities: The Drawings in Ms. XIII B. 7 in the National Library in Naples, London 1963 > pp. 32 and 140
- > Campbell, Ian: Reconstructions of Roman Temples made in Italy between 1450 and 1600, I-II, Worcester (Ph.D.), Trinity 1984 > vol. 1, p. 254

Comment

The Codex Ursinianus is a volume with a binding bearing the coat of arms of Clement X, hence our dating for the work as a whole. It is an album of sheets of drawings once belonging to Fulvio Orsini (see name auth.). They are not bound in their original order and many sheets have been cut up into pieces and then stuck onto sheets in a different order. The subjects are predominantly antique monuments: ff. 1-10 show mainly Egyptian and Egyptianising monuments; ff. 11-12 plans of ancient Rome; ff. 13-23, fragments of the Severan marble plan of Rome (these have attracted most interest in the codex; see bibl. Carettoni Colini Cozza Gatti 1960); ff. 24-51, chiefly temples and tombs. Much of the material in this first part of the codex is copied from Pirro Ligorio's Naples, Paris and Oxford codices, i.e. work completed before he moved to Ferrara in 1569. On ff. 50-51 the reconstruction of Praeneste has been copied from the Turin encyclopaedia, compiled in Ferrara after 1569. So we cannot accept Mandowsky and Mitchell's suggestion that the codex was completed by 1570. Nor can we accept their starting date of 1564-5, since the accompanying text suggests an earlier dating, e.g. fol. 7 v.B, where a statue is said to belong to Gentile Delfini who died in 1559 (cf. Mandowsky and Mitchell 1963, p. 140). Since the codex is a later compilation, one can only treat each sheet on its own merits, and hence various datings will be found, although the presence in many cases of annotations in the hand of Onofrio Panvinio gives us a firm terminus ante of 1568 when he died.